DIEV ET MON DROIT

By the King.

A Proclamation concerning New Buildings,

in and about the Citie of London, and against the diuiding of houſes into ſeuerall dwellings, and receiuing and harbouring of Inmates.

WHereas in the firſt yeere of Our Reigne, aſſoone as the more important affaires of Our State would giue Vs leaue, taking into Our Princely conſideration the ſtate of Our Citie of London, being Our Royall Chamber, and the Imperiall ſeate of Our Kingdomes, renowned ouer all the parts of Chriſtendome, both in reſpect of the vſuall reſidence of Our Royall Perſon and Court neere vnto it, the confluence of Forreigne Ambaſſadours and Strangers thither, the ordinary place for Our Courts of Iuſtice, and reſort of Our Nobilitie and Gentry there for theſe occaſions;

And foreſeeing that the honour, gouernment, health and ſafety of this Citie, was of great conſequence vnto Vs, and that Our Royall Progenitors in former times (eſpecially Our moſt Royall Father of bleſſed memory, King IAMES, & the moſt Excellent Princeſſe Queene ELIZABETH, in their times) by their Royall Proclamations had carefully prouided for the ſame, Wee, according to thoſe worthy examples, by Our Royall Proclamation did ſtraitly prouide againſt the erecting of Houſes & Buildings vpon new Foundations, & the entertaining of Inmates, in and about this Citie, which would multiply the Inhabitants to ſuch an exceſſiue number, that they could neither be gouerned nor fedd; And did alſo thereby giue Rules for the Repairing and new Building of antient houſes decayed, in ſuch a comely manner, with Bricke or Stone, as might bee for the honour and ſafety of the Citie; And for the putting of this Our Commandement into due execution, Wee did make, and ſeuerall times renew Our Commiſſion directed to the Lord Maior of Our ſaid Citie, and diuers other perſons of honour and worth, grounding the ſame vpon rules of Law and Iuſtice, as againſt publique and common Nuſances, aſwell as vpon reaſon of State and Gouernement, all tending to

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the publique good of Our people: But that taking not so full effect hitherto as Wee expected, Wee haue now againe resolued to renew that Our Commission to diuers Honourable persons, and others of Worth and vnderstanding; And therefore Wee doe hereby publish and declare Our Royall pleasure and Command, That Our sayd Commissioners for that seruice, shall forthwith aswell by taking a view in their owne persons from time to time, as by all other good wayes and meanes, enquire and finde out the offenders and offences done against the seuerall Proclamations made heretofore by Our said Father, and by Our Selfe, as against this present Proclamation, and the same beeing so found out, to make certificate thereof vnder their hands, or vnder the hands of two, or more of them, to Our Counsell Board, or to binde them ouer to answere their contempts, either before the Lords of Our Priuie Councell, or in Our Court of Starchamber, to the end that such proceeding may bee had against them, as may stand with Our Honour and with Our Lawes.

And for stay and preuention of the like offences hereafter, Our expresse Will and pleasure is, That where any person shall presume after the publication of this Proclamation, to erect, or set vp in any kind whatsoeuer, any Building vpon new Foundation within the limits of three miles, from any of the Gates of the Citie of London or Palace of Westminster; That the Owners of the Building so begun, and all the Workemen therein imployed, shall forthwith by force and vertue of Our Royal Commandement (without expecting any other or further warrant) be attached, & brought before some of Our sayd Commissioners and Justices of Peace, whom Wee also hereby require and command, to commit them to Prison, vntill they shall finde sufficient Sureties for stay of their sayd Building, as also for their appearance before the Lords of Our Priuie Councell, or in Our high Court of Starchamber, to answere such their contempts, and to vndergoe such Sentence, as by that Court shall bee giuen against them.

And for such as shall hereafter Reedifie or build vpon old Foundations in any other sort then is prescribed in Our former Proclamations, and by the Instructions herein expressed; That aswell all such Builders, as the Workemen therein imployed, shall bee attached likewise and proceeded withall as aforesayd.

And whereas by Our former Proclamation Wee charged and commanded the Aldermen of the Citie of London, and their Deputies, in their seuerall wards and Precincts, as likewise the Justices of Peace, High and Petie Constables, and all other inferiour Officers within their seuerall limits & Iurisdictions, happening within the seuerall Counties of Middlesex, Essex, Kent, and Surrey, That they and euery of them in their seuerall places and Offices respectiuely, should diligently and duely attend to giue their vttermost ayde, helpe, and assistance according to their duties, for the due obseruance to see this Our Royall pleasure (so much concerning the publique good) to bee duely executed and performed; And where they or any of them should finde any offence to bee committed against any Branch or Article of the sayd Proclamation, to make stay thereof, and certifie the Commissioners or the Lords of Our Priuie Councell of the sayd offences and offenders, it being now manifest, that many of the sayd offences haue been committed and done by the negligence or conniuencie of some of the Aldermens Deputies within the Citie of London, & other inferiour Officers in the

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Counties adiacent, in not attending Our Commandement by timely ſtaying the proceeding of ſuch new buildings.

Wee therefore doe hereby declare Our Will and pleaſure to be, That where any Building ſhall bee begun contrary to this Our Proclamation, Wee will take a ſtrict account thereof, aſwell from the ſaid Aldermen, as the Juſtices of Peace aforeſayd, happening within their ſeuerall limits and Juriſdictions.

And further Our will and pleaſure is, That aſwell the Aldermens Deputies in their ſeuerall Precincts, as the high and petie Conſtables, and Headboroughs, and other inferiour Officers in their ſeuerall Pariſhes, and dwelling in or neere to the place where any ſuch new Building ſhall happen to bee begun, contrary to the Tenour of this Our Proclamation; And they or ſome of them not attaching the perſon or perſons ſo offending, and not bringing them before ſome of Our Commiſſioners as aforeſayd, That euery ſuch Aldermans Deputie, high Conſtable, petie Conſtable and Headborough, or other inferiour Officers, ſhall be not onely remooued from their ſeuerall Places and Offices, but bee committed to the common Gaole of the Citie of London, and Counties of Middleſex, Eſſex, Kent, and Surry, reſpectiuely where ſuch offence or offences ſhall be committed; And euery of them to bee bound with good ſureties for his and their good behauiour for one whole yeere then after, to the end that by ſuch their puniſhment, others may learne the better to performe their duties in this Our Seruice.

And to the end that ſuch as doe conforme in their building to the order and forme preſcribed by Us, may receiue due encouragement by hauing their Materials at reaſonable Rates and Prices, Which Wee are informed is much inhanced and raiſed from the Prices formerly ſet by Our Commiſſioners: It is therefore Our Will and pleaſure, That Our Commiſſioners for Buildings doe call before them all and euery the Brickmakers, and Limeburners within three miles diſtant of London, as alſo ſuch as doe bring any of the ſaid Materials by land or water to the Citie of London, or the places neere adioyning, and doe take order from time to time aſwell for the reducing of the Prices thereof to former, vſuall and reaſonable Rates, or otherwiſe according to their good diſcretions to bee by them ſet, as alſo for the preſent and ſpeedy ſuppreſſing of all and euery the Nuſances by them dayly committed in their ſeuerall profeſſions of Brick making and Lime-burning ſo neere the Citie of London, and the parts and places adioyning thereunto, and for the ſelling of thoſe Materials at and for reaſonable Rates and Prices, according to the Articles hereafter following.

FIrſt, Wee doe ſtrictly charge and command, That no dwelling houſes, Stables, Shops, Stalles, or any other Building whatſoeuer, bee from henceforth erected, or attempted to bee erected within the Citie of London, or the Suburbs thereof, or within the diſtance of three miles to bee taken from any Gate of the ſayd Citie, or from Our Palace at Weſtminſter, except it bee vpon the Foundation of a former dwelling houſe, or ſuch like Building; And if any ſuch Building contrary to this Prohibition ſhall hereafter happen to be begunne, that the ſame bee forthwith ſtayed from further proceeding, by the Alderman of the Ward, or by two of the next Juſtices of Peace, and aſwell ſuch Builder, as the Workemen employed therein, committed to Priſon, vntill they ſhall enter into ſufficient Bond, either to demoliſh, & pull downe that which is built, or to anſwere their contempt in our high Court of Starchamber, or before the Lords of the Priuy Councell at the Councell Board. And the Conſtable of the Pariſh or Place, ſhall from time to time in the firſt beginning of any

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such Worke or building, giue notice to the Alderman of the Warde, or two next Iustices of Peace, of any such offence, and of the offenders therein, that this Proclamation may bee speedily and freshly put in execution, All Houses, Sheddes, Shoppes, and other Buildings, which haue beene builded or set vp within the limits aforesaid, at any time sithence the thirteenth yeere of the Reigne of Our said late Father King IAMES of blessed memory, contrary to any Proclamation published in His time, shall bee forthwith pulled downe, as is before directed touching other Buildings to be stayed or pulled downe, and no Cellars erected within the time last mentioned, to bee vsed for Lodgings, or Victualling-Houses, but the Occupiers thereof to be suppressed, and so to be kept by the Iustices of Peace.

THat no person or persons doe Erect, Reedifie, or set vp any House, or Building in London, or within the distance of three miles from any the Gates of the sayd Citie of London, or from Our said Palace at Westminster, vnlesse he doe make all the vtter-walles of the same of Bricke, or Bricke and Stone; And that all Houses and Buildings to be erected within the sayd Citie, or in, or adioyning to any open Streete of any Towne or Village out of the sayd Citie, within the limits of three miles aforesayd, shall bee built according to the forme and proportion hereafter in these presents expressed: (viz.) Euery whole Story of and in such Houses and Buildings, and all & euery the Roomes of such whole Story, shall be of the height of tenne foote of Assize at the least, and euery halfe Story of and in such Houses and Buildings, shall bee of the height of seuen foote and a halfe at the least; And that in the forefront, and all outward and diuision walles betwixt house and house, and the Iambes, Heads and soyles of the Windowes shall be of Bricke, or of Bricke and Stone, and the windowes (being of Timber) not to bee put in vntill the Iambes and heads aforesaid bee finished, and beare of themselues.

AND if the sayd buildings doe not exceede two Stories in height, then the walles thereof shall be of the thicknesse of one Bricke and halfe a Brickes length according to the assize of Brickes hereunder mentioned, from the ground vnto the vppermost part of the said wals; And where the building shall be of the height of three Stories, the walles of the first Story shall bee of the thicknesse of two Brickes length, and from thence vnto the vppermost part of the wall of the thicknesse of one Bricke and halfe a brickes length, and so proportionably, if there shall bee more Stories.

THat, in building of the sayd Houses there shall bee no Iutties or Iutting, or Cant-windowes, either vpon Timber Ioistes, or otherwise, but the walles to goe direct and straight vpwards, and at the setting of, a water table to bee made; Also the lights of the windowes of euery whole Story to bee of more height then breadth, to the end the Roomes may receiue ayre for health, and there may bee sufficient Peeres of Bricke, not lesse then halfe the bredth of the Windowes betweene them for strength; And likewise the windowes of euery halfe Story to bee made square euery way, or neere thereabouts.

THat all Shops and Streete doores be made with Pillasters of Stone or Bricke, to be in breadth fifteene inches at the least, and as thicke as the wall of the Story, and the heads of the Shop-windowes cut in wedges, with Arches ouer them to sustaine the wall aboue; And that none doe raise their first floore to gaine height in their Cellars, so as they are thereby forced to make steppes into the streete: Prouided alwayes, that for so much as concerneth the building with Bricke or Stone, shall not extend to any Buildings vpon London Bridge, which by reason of the situation thereof cannot with conuenience be so built.

AND for the better encouragement of Our louing Subiects in their Buildings, according to the direction of this Proclamation: wee haue thought fit to set downe these orders following concerning the true making and rating of the pryce of Bricke, which is one of the principall Materials requisite for the said buildings: (viz.)

THat the earth whereof the Bricke shall bee made, bee good and fit for that purpose, The first digging thereof to be betweene the Feasts of S. Michael the Archangel, and S. Thomas

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the Apoſtle, and the ſecond digging, talling, or turning vp of the ſayd earth, to be at or before the laſt day of Februarie then following; And that no perſon whatſoeuer doe preſume to digge or make any Bricke in any place within one mile of the Gates of the ſaid Citie of London, or within one mile of Our Palace of Weſtminſter.

That the ſayd earth bee ſufficiently and well wrought and tempered before it bee moulded, and the Brickmakers cauſe no earth to bee moulded for Bricke, but onely betweene the Feaſt of the Annunciation of the bleſſed Virgin Mary, and the laſt day of Auguſt yeerely, and at no other time or ſeaſon of the yeere.

That in the moulding of the ſayd Bricke, the Moulds bee throughly and well filled, and not ſet in the Moulds in the ſaying downe; And that they be ſufficiently and well dryed before they be put into the Kilne, and then carefully and throughly wel burned, ſo as for the aſſize euery Bricke being burned containe in length nine inches, in bredth foure inches one quarter and halfe a quarter of an inch, and in thickeneſſe two inches and one quarter of an inch.

That the price of Brickes (being thus wrought and made in goodneſſe, ſize, and manner as aforeſayd) ſhall not exceede the rate of eight ſhillings the thouſand at the Kilne; And if any exceſſiue rate be demaunded for the carriage of the ſayd Brickes from the Kilne to the place where they ſhall bee to bee vſed, the Commiſſioners for buildings to moderate the ſame, according to equity in their good diſcretions; And that no perſon or perſons ſhall make, or cauſe to bee made, within fiue miles of any of the Gates of the Citie of London, nor bring by Water or land, or vtter, ſell, or put to ſale within the ſaid Citie, or any place or places within fiue miles thereof, as aforeſayd, any Brickes made or wrought contrary to the directions aforeſayd, nor ſell the ſame at any higher rate then is before mentioned.

That no perſon or perſons within the ſayd Citie of London, or within three miles from any the Gates thereof, or from Our Palace of Weſtminſter, ſhall in defrauding the intent of this Proclamation, ſupport or ſtrengthen any Buildings ſo ruinous and old, as are vnfit to bee continued, by digging of Cellars, and bringing vp new bricke walles, by erecting new Chimneys and Staire-caſes, by placing of pieces of Timber, by ſetting on new Roofes or Rafters, and thruſting out of Dormers, knitting and faſtning together the ſayd new additions vnto the old Timber, by Barres and Crampes of Iron, or other like deuices, vnleſſe hee or they ſhall bee thereunto licenced and allowed by Our Commiſſioners for Buildings.

That no perſon or perſons within the limits laſt aforeſayd, do at any time or times hereafter preſume or attempt, to erect, couer, ouerlay, or incloſe any Houels, or other Sheds of Timber, with Reedes, Faggots, Hay, Straw, Boards, or other Materials, or doe rayſe vp any wall, Pale, or banke of earth, to which Sheds may bee added, or doe repaire or new make into the Streets, any manner of bulkes, ſtalles, windowes, doores, or other offenſiue iſſues, or doe alter or change the vſe of any dwelling houſe, or other building, to any more noyſome or offenſiue vſe, end, or purpoſe, then the ſame was imployed before the time of the demoliſhing or altering the ſame, without the ſpeciall licence and allowance of the ſayd Commiſſioners for buildings. And for that the diuiding of houſes into ſeuerall tenements and habitations, and the letting part of houſes and chambers to Inmates and vnderſitters, is no leſſe inconuenient then exceſſiue buildings, aſwell in regard of ſurcharge of people, eſpecially of the worſt ſort, and for breeding and ſpreading of infection, as otherwiſe, Wee doe alſo command theſe Articles following to bee duely obſerued.

That no perſon or perſons within the Citie of London, or three miles from any the Gates thereof, doe diuide any dwelling houſe by Leaſe, ſufferance, or otherwiſe, into, or for any more tenements or dwellings then are at this preſent, or haue been heretofore vſed within the ſame by the ſpace of thirty yeeres laſt paſt.

That no perſon doe hereafter receiue into any houſe, any Inmates or vnderſitters, or any more Families then one.

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That no perſon or perſons who ſhall erect a new houſe vpon, or within the precincts of an old foundation, ſhall diuide the ſame into more Tenements, or ſeuerall dwellings then were vſed in the ſaid former houſes.

By the due obſeruation of which ſeuerall Articles, as the vniformity of the buildings will bring much honour to the City, & grace and ornament, both to the ſtreets thereof, and to the neighbour townes; ſo the building with Bricke or Stone will be more durable, and more ſafe from the danger and caſualty of fire: & withall the reducing of all ſorts of houſes to this order, and the preſent remouing of Inmates and Underſitters according to this direction, will in ſhort time diſcontinue, and take away the many Cottages, Sheds, and baſe places of habitations in By lanes, and backe Streets, whereby the City, Suburbes, and Confines will become more ſutable, and leſſe ſubiect to that danger of ſickneſſe and infection, which by the vnwholſome peſtering of multitudes of poore people together, is now threatned againſt the ſame. And therefore We vpon mature, and deliberate conſideration taken of the premiſſes, doe ſtraightly charge & command, all and euery perſon & perſons, of whatſoeuer degree, quality, or condition he or they be: That he, they, and euery of them, doe well and truly obſerue and keepe, all and ſingular the Articles before ſpecified, in all things to them reſpectiuely belonging, as they will auoid Our high diſpleaſure, and ſuch further penalties and puniſhments, as their contempts and neglects herein ſhall demerit, and by Our Prerogatiue royall, or otherwiſe may be inflicted vpon them.

Giuen at Our Court at Nonſuch, the ſixteenth day of Iuly, in the ſixth yeere of Our Reigne of Great Britaine, France and Ireland.

God ſaue the King.

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